



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

REVIEWS AND NOTES.

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMISSION ON THE OFFICIAL STATISTICS OF CANADA WITH APPENDIX CONSISTING OF NOTES OF EVIDENCE. OTTAWA, 1913.

By an Order in Council dated May 30, 1912, a Departmental Commission was appointed to inquire into the statistical work carried on in the various departments "as to its scope, methods, reliability, whether and to what extent duplication occurs; and to report to the Minister of Trade and Commerce a comprehensive system of general statistics adequate to the necessities of the country and in keeping with the demands of the time." The commission was composed of seven members and it held twenty-seven meetings, the first on June 5, 1912, and the last on November 29, 1912.

In addition to its work of ascertaining the present state of the statistics compiled by the Central Government, the Commission was charged with the duty of learning what branches of statistical work were being conducted by the provinces, "the methods used therein, results attained, and to what extent these may assist in or may duplicate work now being done by the Dominion Government."

The summary of the recommendations of the Commission are as follows:

I. The organization of a Central Statistical Office for the coördination, unification, extension and general improvement of statistics, including,—

(1) The creation of a Dominion Inter-departmental Statistical Committee.

(2) The creation of an Inter-provincial conference on Statistics.

II. The following reforms in existing statistics:

(1) DOMINION.

(a) *The Census*.—The taking of a quinquennial census and the limitation of the field of the census proper to the enumeration of population and property, with a thorough reëxamination of the methods at present in use in collecting and compiling data and in publishing results.

(b) *Production*.—The institution of an annual census of production, embracing the chief products of agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining, and manufactures.

(c) *Trade*.—The coördination of the work of the statistical branches of the Departments of Customs and Trade and Commerce, with improvement in the classification scheme and in other details.

(d) *Transportation*.—The reorganization of canal statistics. The creation of statistics of coastal trade.

(e) *Labour*.—The creation of wages and consumption statistics.

(f) *Emigration*.—The perfecting of methods of recording departures.

(g) *Miscellaneous*.—Improvements in statistics of insurance and the development of price statistics.

(h) *Publications*.—The enlargement of the Canada Year Book. The coördination of other publications.

(2) PROVINCIAL.

The coördination of statistics on the following subjects in the light of matter set forth in the Report: births, marriages, and deaths; public health; education; agriculture; local and municipal governments; industrial accidents; various phases of production; finance; public lands; public works; and hospitals and charities.

III. The appointment of all officials engaged in statistical work on grounds of character and capacity.

This report in its details is a valuable summary of the statistics now available for Canada. More than that it is a critical analysis of the various statistical data of Canada by a body of qualified experts who do not hesitate to point out the many serious defects both of omission and commission. The great need of more complete vital statistics is emphasized as also statistics of industrial accidents. It is pointed out that at present the statistics of emigration are seriously defective as are also those of wages, household expenditure, prices, etc.

Some of the general observations made by the Commission are so universally applicable that it is worth while to quote from the report at some length:

“(1) The scope of Canadian statistics has been restricted. On not a few points of vital interest to the country, little or no statistical information exists in a form suitable for practical application. There has been no general comprehensive answer to the question, What statistics should a country such as Canada possess, *i. e.*, what are the phenomena requiring the scientific measurements supplied by statistics if Canadian national development is to proceed to the best advantage? It may be argued that the demand for statistics may be trusted to create the supply; but to wait for the occasion to arise is often to be too late, and such a policy precludes the growth of a statistical system along consistent and logical lines.

“(2) Where the statistical activities of several bodies working along similar lines are virtually independent, duplication is inevitable. The notes of evidence show many cases both of actual duplication and of serious waste of effort through lack of coöperation between statistical authorities.

“(3) The statistics are unequal in quality and value. There are instances, both dominion and provincial, of imperfect statistical method resulting from (a) lack of expert knowledge of the subject under investigation and (b) lack of appreciation of the nature and conditions of statistical measurement. The absence of leadership is nowhere more apparent than in the varying extent to which statistical methods have been developed in different branches. The whole question of reliability is involved in this. Without careful adjustment of method, accuracy is impossible. On such a

point no more severe criticism is possible than the statement that room for improvement exists.

"(4) The restriction of outlook has impaired promptitude in the issue of reports. Many statistics lose a large part of their value after a comparatively short lapse of time. Especially is this true in a rapidly growing country like Canada.

"(5) Lack of unity and coördination prevents true comparisons between Canada and other countries. The recent growth of international trade and intercourse has rendered such comparisons more than ever necessary, and they have become indispensable to the national progress of Canada."

In concluding this notice of an exceedingly interesting report attention may be directed to the schematic diagram which forms its frontispiece. This diagram is offered as a suggestion of the extent of the field to be covered by an adequate system of Canadian statistics, the several divisions being so grouped as to indicate their reciprocal relation.

F. S. CRUM.

REPORT OF THE MASSACHUSETTS COMMISSION ON COMPENSATION FOR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS, JULY 1, 1912.

The final report of the Massachusetts Commission on Industrial Accidents maintains the usual high quality of official reports in that state. This commission was constituted in June, 1910, to investigate the effects of the existing laws of Massachusetts, and of other jurisdictions, relating to employers' liability; to confer with the similar commissions of other states; to draft a new compensation act; and to compile statistics. It was soon found that the commission would have to collect its own data. No bureau or office had statistics showing, in cases of fatal accidents, the extent to which others were dependent upon the deceased for support; nor showing, in cases of non-fatal accidents, whether the injuries resulted in complete or partial disability, and the duration of the disability. The commission accordingly induced 120 employers to report all accidents occurring during ten weeks. The brief period covered, the small number of establishments reporting, the resulting small number of accidents reported, and the short interval between the accidents and the printing of the statistics,—all limited the trustworthiness of any conclusions which might have been drawn from these figures. The commission, therefore, rightly regarded this inquiry as experimental only. It was seen that industries should be differently classified; that the figures should comprehend all establishments in the state; and that they should cover a longer period. The commission filed its first report in January, 1911.*

In May of the same year it submitted drafts of three bills, one providing for voluntary mutual insurance of employees by employers, and denying the three common law defenses of contributory negligence, fault of fellow servant, and assumption of risk to those employers not adopting the act; an-

* Appendix B of the final report reprints some of the tables of the first report.